

Guide to Nassau - 1875

GUIDE

TO

NASSAU

NEW PROVIDENCE,
BAHAMAS.

THE

Royal Victoria Hotel

AND THE

New York, Nassau and Savannah
MAIL STEAMSHIP LINE.



NASSAU.

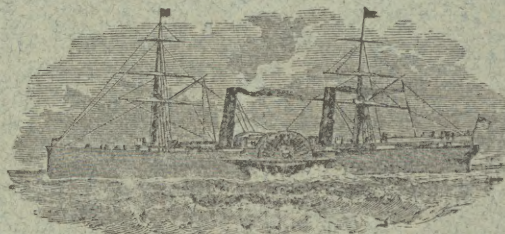
NEW PROVIDENCE, BAHAMAS.

COMMUNICATION EVERY TEN DAYS WITH THIS
FAVORITE WINTER RESORT.

THE

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Under contract with the
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EVERY TEN DAYS,

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GUIDE

TO

Nassau,

ISLAND OF NEW PROVIDENCE,

Bahamas, West Indies,

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS.

The Royal Victoria Hotel

AND

**THE NEW YORK, NASSAU & SAVANNAH
MAIL STEAMSHIP LINE.**

WITH

METEOROLOGICAL TABLES, AND OTHER STATISTICS OF INTEREST TO INVALIDS
AND TRAVELERS.



New York:

LAWRENCE & ALLEN, STATIONERS AND PRINTERS, 20 VESEY STREET,

1876

NASSAU,

NEW PROVIDENCE, BAHAMAS,

A FAMOUS WINTER RESORT.

ROYAL VICTORIA HOTEL,

New York, Nassau, and Savannah

MAIL STEAMSHIP LINE.

THE Bahamas are a group of Islands which lie on the east coast of North America, north of Cuba and St. Domingo, encircling and almost enclosing the Gulf of Mexico to the northward. These Islands are twenty-nine in number, and, without exception, of the same geological character, being formed of calcareous rock, composed of coral shells and marine deposits, hardened into limestone more or less stratified, and abounding in fossils of recent and living species.

New Providence is the most important of the group; Nassau, its chief and only town, was settled by Europeans in 1629, since which time it has been the seat of government. It is situated in north latitude $25^{\circ} 5'$, and west longitude $77^{\circ} 20'$, covering an area of 85 square miles, with a population of about 12,000. Its history is full of interest to the student, but limited space and desire to place before the reader important facts regarding it as a winter resort, compel us to ignore the claims of both history and romance.



STREET IN NASSAU.

The City of Nassau is built on the Northern side of the Island, which slopes down to the water's edge, affording sure and perfect drainage. It extends along the water-front for about three miles and back to the crest of the slope, on which stands the Government House, the Royal Victoria Hotel, and many of the finest private residences. The streets are laid out at right angles with each other, and are uniformly macadamized, as are also the drives around the Island. The houses are, for the most part, built of stone, and the grounds surrounding them are ornamented with flowers and trees. The City has a fine public library of over six thousand volumes. Nassau has as much right to be called "the City of Churches" as our own Brooklyn. All creeds find themselves at home in the services of the various churches and chapels.

The drives are not to be excelled—the roads being equal to the best; the scenery, both seaward and inland, is varied and beautiful, and the harbor and neighboring waters afford at once a safe and extensive boating ground—while the shores are covered with marine treasures, in the form of shells and corals. In the interior and on the out Island game rewards the labors of the sportsman; while the adjacent waters supply fish in abundance, unrivaled for beauty and size.

Almost all the fruits known to the tropics are found here, including the following varieties:—

Pine-apple, sappadilla, cashew, sweet sop, sour sop, papaw, sweet and sour orange; lemon, lime, star apple, cocoa-plum, cocoa-nut, sea-side grape, mamee, plantain, banana, love-in-a-mist, guava, Spanish plum, hog plum, scarlet plum, tamarind, wild grape, custard (Jamaica) apple, ground nut, bread fruit, ackee, citron, mandarin, shaddock, rose apple, fig, mango, abacado, pear, pomegranate, date, balsam apple, mulberry, broad-leaf almond, grape fruit, jujube.

The Royal Victoria Hotel was built by the Government in 1860, to meet the demands of invalids and others seeking to avail themselves of the peculiar natural advantages offered by Nassau for a winter residence, and neither pains nor expense was spared in answering the requirements of the most modern and scientific theories of architecture.



ROYAL VICTORIA HOTEL, NASSAU, N. P.

The building is of limestone—four stories high; each of the three first stories being surrounded by a piazza ten feet wide, forming an uninterrupted promenade of over one thousand feet in extent—affording to those unable to withstand the fatigue of out-door exercise, perfect facilities for enjoying the fine scenery and refreshing breezes. The rooms are large and perfectly ventilated; those of the first, second and third stories being

provided with French casements, opening on the piazza, and each door and window having a fan-light. The house is provided with bath-rooms and other modern improvements. The tanks for rain water exceed 300,000 gallons in capacity; while spring water is forced through the building from a fine well on the premises. The parlors are large and conveniently situated. The dining-room will seat one hundred and fifty persons comfortably. Sea-bathing is conveniently near the house, and salt water baths, either in the bathing-rooms or private apartments, can be furnished at all times.

In order to meet the requirements of Nassau, as a great Sanitarium, frequent and regular communication with the United States is necessary; with that view, the Winter Service is now performed direct between Savannah and Nassau *every Ten Days*, making close connections at Savannah with first-class steamers, to and from New York, or by rail to all parts of the country, thus giving the option of a short sea voyage to or from Savannah, or a longer voyage to or from New York; also affording Florida and Southern Tourists, every facility for including Nassau in their trip, without being forced to take passage from a Northern port.

Heretofore, the transfer outside the bar to the shore, and the infrequent communication, has been a barrier in the minds of many to a visit to this favored resort, but the schedule run by the present line does away with this, the steamers being of light draft especially fitted for the service, at all times entering the harbor and going to the wharf, and having all state room and cabin accommodation on deck, are eminently adapted to the climate. The trip from Savannah is made in about forty-eight hours, and is in-shore from Savannah Bar nearly south to Cape Florida, and usually "as smooth as a mill pond." Crossing the Gulf Stream occupies five hours, and then with Bahama Bank on the right, and the Islands of Grand Bahama and Abaco on the left hand, a pleasant run of a few hours brings the ship into the harbor of Nassau.

For the accommodation of visitors to the Island, arrangements have been made by which telegraphic communications may be forwarded to all parts of the country on the arrival of the steamer in Savannah, and answers received will be brought over by the steamer on her return trip, thus bringing sojourners on the Island almost within telegraphic communication of their own homes.

New Providence has been noted for salubrity of climate for many years.

Frost is positively unknown; and a glance at the following carefully prepared tables, will demonstrate the equable character of the climate.

NOVEMBER, 1872.

THERMOMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	73 $\frac{3}{4}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{4}$	75
Highest,	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	81	79	77
Lowest,	71	73	72	72
Greatest change in 24 hrs.	4	7	7	4
No. Records above 78,	0	7	0	0
“ “ below 68,	0	0	0	0

HYGROMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	73 $\frac{1}{4}$	76	74 $\frac{3}{4}$	73 $\frac{1}{4}$
Highest,	77	80	78	76
Lowest,	70	71	70	70
Greatest change in 24 hrs.	7	9	7	6

BAROMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	29.79	30.06	30.05	30.13
Highest,	30.28	30.27	30.26	30.25
Lowest,	29.80	29.80	29.80	29.82

DECEMBER, 1872.

THERMOMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	72 $\frac{3}{4}$	75	73 $\frac{3}{4}$	74
Highest,	75	81	77	78
Lowest,	66	68	67	68
Greatest change in 24hrs.	6	11	8	8
No. records above 78,	0	1	0	0
“ “ below 68,	1	0	1	0

HYGROMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	71	72 $\frac{3}{4}$	71 $\frac{3}{4}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$
Highest,	74	79	76	76
Lowest,	65	66	65	65
Greatest change in 24 hrs.	7	10	7	9

BAROMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	30.21	30.22	30.22	30.22
Highest,	30.36	30.40	30.38	30.38
Lowest,	30.02	30.04	30.00	30.00

JANUARY, 1873.

THERMOMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	72	70	70
Highest,	76	78	78	77
Lowest,	64	63	64	64
Greatest change in 24 hrs.	9	9	9	12
No. records above 78,	0	0	0	0
“ “ below 68,	8	5	9	8

WINTER RESORT.

HYGROMETER.

Time,	6 ¹ / ₂ A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	68	68	67 ³ / ₄	67
Highest,	74	75	74	74
Lowest,	60	60	60	58
Greatest change in 24 hrs.	9	9	9	13

BAROMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	30.16	30.18	30.14	30.17
Highest,	30.30	30.30	30.26	30.30
Lowest,	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00

FEBRUARY, 1873.

THERMOMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 A. M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	70	72	71 ¹ / ₂	71
Highest,	76	78	78	76
Lowest,	64	67	64	64
Greatest change in 24 hrs.	6	8	8	9
No. records above 78,	0	0	0	0
“ “ below 68,	7	5	5	6

HYGROMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	66 ¹ / ₂	68	66	67
Highest,	72	75	74	73
Lowest,	57	61	58	58
Greatest change in 24 hrs.	9	12	9	7

BAROMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	30.12	30.15	30.05	30.11
Highest,	30.30	30.80	30.23	30.26
Lowest,	29.90	29.91	29.02	29.06

MARCH, 1873.

THERMOMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	73	76	75 ¹ / ₄	73 ¹ / ₂
Highest,	78	82	80	78
Lowest,	64	66	66	65
Greatest change in 24 hrs.	9	8	8	8
No. records above 78,	0	9	6	0
“ “ below 68,	4	1	1	2

HYGROMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	69 ¹ / ₂	70	70	69
Highest,	76	77	76	76
Lowest,	58	59	59	59
Greatest change in 24 hrs.	12	7	9	10

BAROMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	30.13	30.14	30.15	30.15
Highest,	30.27	30.26	30.27	30.27
Lowest,	29.95	29.95	30.00	29.96

APRIL, 1873.

THERMOMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	77	79	78½	77
Highest,	80	82	82	80
Lowest,	74	75	73	73
Greatest change in 24 hrs.	4	4	7	5
No. records above 78,	5	24	19	4
“ “ below 68,	0	0	0	0

HYGROMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	73	73½	73	73
Highest,	77	77	78	78
Lowest,	67	67	67	67
Greatest change in 24 hrs.	6	5	5	6

BAROMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	30.15	30.16	30.15½	30.12¾
Highest,	30.36	30.39	30.38	30.36
Lowest,	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00

MAY 1st to 11th, 1873.

THERMOMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	75	76	75	74
Highest,	82	82	80	80
Lowest,	72	73	73	73
Greatest change in 24 hrs.	3	5	5	5
No records above 78,	2	1	1	1
“ “ below 68,	0	0	0	0

HYGROMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	72	72	71 8-10	72
Highest,	77	76	75	76
Lowest,	70	70	70	70
Greatest change in 24 hrs.	5	4	2	3

BAROMETER.

Time,	6 A. M.	12 M.	6 P. M.	12 P. M.
Average,	30.14	30.17	30.16	30.16
Highest,	30.23	30.28	30.25	30.25
Lowest,	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00

The above tables, representing as they do the average temperature of morning, noon, evening, and midnight, with highest and lowest markings of the thermometer during each month, and the greatest change in any one period of twenty-four hours, furnish valuable data from which to derive an idea of the temperature of these islands. To make the tables even more complete, there is added the number of times each month the mercury rose above 78 degrees or fell below 68 degrees. The degree of humidity and amount of pressure of the atmosphere are also noted, and we doubt not that these thermometric, barometric, and hygrometric results will be of interest to the majority of our readers—they certainly will be to those having patients for whom they are seeking a milder climate.

WINTER RESORT.

The following is the Thermometric Record taken at the Royal Victoria Hotel, during the season of 1874 -75. It shows the daily average of three observations taken at 6 A. M., 12 M. and 6 P. M.

Day of Month.	1874.		1875.			
	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.
1	78 $\frac{2}{3}$	75	73 $\frac{3}{8}$	77	76	78
2	78 $\frac{2}{3}$	74 $\frac{2}{3}$	74	77	76	76 $\frac{1}{3}$
3	81	74 $\frac{2}{3}$	73 $\frac{3}{8}$	71 $\frac{1}{3}$	76 $\frac{1}{3}$	77
4	80 $\frac{2}{3}$	74 $\frac{1}{3}$	74	72	76	73 $\frac{1}{3}$
5	80 $\frac{1}{3}$	74 $\frac{2}{3}$	74 $\frac{1}{3}$	71 $\frac{1}{3}$	75 $\frac{2}{3}$	74
6	81 $\frac{1}{3}$	75 $\frac{1}{3}$	74	70 $\frac{2}{3}$	76 $\frac{2}{3}$	73 $\frac{1}{3}$
7	81 $\frac{1}{3}$	74 $\frac{2}{3}$	74	71	76 $\frac{2}{3}$	74
8	80 $\frac{2}{3}$	74	74	70 $\frac{2}{3}$	73 $\frac{3}{8}$	75
9	80 $\frac{2}{3}$	72 $\frac{2}{3}$	74	67 $\frac{2}{3}$	72 $\frac{2}{3}$	75 $\frac{2}{3}$
10	76 $\frac{1}{3}$	73 $\frac{1}{3}$	74	70	72	76
11	78 $\frac{1}{3}$	73 $\frac{1}{3}$	74	73	74	77 $\frac{1}{3}$
12	78 $\frac{1}{3}$	73 $\frac{1}{3}$	74 $\frac{1}{3}$	71 $\frac{1}{3}$	73 $\frac{1}{3}$	79 $\frac{2}{3}$
13	75 $\frac{2}{3}$	73 $\frac{1}{3}$	74	73	76	80
14	72	74	74	73 $\frac{2}{3}$	77 $\frac{2}{3}$	77 $\frac{2}{3}$
15	73 $\frac{1}{3}$	72 $\frac{2}{3}$	71 $\frac{2}{3}$	73 $\frac{2}{3}$	77	73 $\frac{1}{3}$
16	72 $\frac{1}{3}$	71 $\frac{1}{3}$	72 $\frac{2}{3}$	72 $\frac{1}{3}$	78	74
17	73 $\frac{1}{3}$	71	71 $\frac{1}{3}$	72 $\frac{2}{3}$	76	75 $\frac{2}{3}$
18	75 $\frac{1}{3}$	71 $\frac{1}{3}$	71 $\frac{2}{3}$	74	72 $\frac{2}{3}$	74
19	68	72	71 $\frac{2}{3}$	74 $\frac{2}{3}$	75 $\frac{2}{3}$	73 $\frac{2}{3}$
20	67	73 $\frac{1}{3}$	70	76 $\frac{2}{3}$	78 $\frac{2}{3}$	77 $\frac{1}{3}$
21	70 $\frac{2}{3}$	71 $\frac{1}{3}$	71 $\frac{1}{3}$	79	77 $\frac{1}{3}$	76
22	73 $\frac{1}{3}$	72	72 $\frac{2}{3}$	77 $\frac{1}{3}$	76	76 $\frac{1}{3}$
23	75	73	74	76	79 $\frac{1}{3}$	75 $\frac{2}{3}$
24	76	74	74 $\frac{2}{3}$	77 $\frac{1}{3}$	71 $\frac{1}{3}$	75 $\frac{2}{3}$
25	77 $\frac{1}{3}$	74 $\frac{2}{3}$	73 $\frac{1}{3}$	76	73	74 $\frac{1}{3}$
26	75	74 $\frac{1}{3}$	73 $\frac{1}{3}$	75 $\frac{2}{3}$	74 $\frac{1}{3}$	77
27	78 $\frac{2}{3}$	75 $\frac{1}{3}$	72	75 $\frac{1}{3}$	74	79 $\frac{2}{3}$
28	77	74 $\frac{2}{3}$	73 $\frac{1}{3}$	73 $\frac{2}{3}$	75 $\frac{2}{3}$	77 $\frac{2}{3}$
29	78 $\frac{1}{3}$	74 $\frac{2}{3}$	73 $\frac{1}{3}$	—	75 $\frac{2}{3}$	76 $\frac{2}{3}$
30	78	74 $\frac{2}{3}$	74	—	75 $\frac{2}{3}$	77 $\frac{2}{3}$
31	—	74 $\frac{2}{3}$	74	—	75 $\frac{1}{3}$	—

Surgeon-Major Bagot, R. A., gives the following comparative table of temperatures:

	WINTER.	SPRING.	SUMMER.	AUTUMN.
Funchal - - - - -	63°50'	64°46'	71°60'	70°88'
Halifax, N.S. - - - - -	21	31 67	71	46 67
New York - - - - -	30 12	52 06	70 93	53 20
Nassau - - - - -	70 67	77 67	86	80 33
Nice - - - - -	46 33	55 02	71 83	61 52
Algiers - - - - -	52 32	60 46	74 41	67 87
Cairo - - - - -	58 52	73 58	85 10	71 48
*Jacksonville, Fla. - - -	55 02	63 88	81 93	62 54

*From Report of Dr. A. S. Baldwin, Jacksonville, Fla.

Staff Asst -Surgeon Segrave, R. A., in charge of the meteorological observations at Nassau, gives the mean degree of humidity as follows;

January - - - - -	76°	July - - - - -	66°2'
February - - - - -	82	August - - - - -	72
March - - - - -	73 8'	September - - - - -	72
April - - - - -	64 7	October - - - - -	81 3
May - - - - -	71	November - - - - -	77 7
June - - - - -	61	December - - - - -	82
Average - - - - -		73°3'	

From these observations, two important deductions will be made; First, that the average temperature, from November to May inclusive, is exactly that at which out-door and in door life are best combined—always above that at which artificial heat becomes necessary; and always below that at which exercise becomes exhausting. Second, that the variation between extreme limits of temperature is comparatively small, and that these limits are those within which any variation is of the least possible importance to the health or comfort of the individual. Moreover, the mean barometrical standard indicates a light or rarified atmosphere, and the average rainfall for a series of years during the season of resort, demonstrates one of unusual dryness. If, then, the climate desideratum for invalids suffering from pulmonary diseases is, as indicated by medical authorities, “a dry, rarified atmosphere at equable temperature,” the Climate of Nassau fulfils the indication not only in an unequaled, but also in a marvellously perfect degree. How perfect will become evident by comparing it with Madeira, South of France, or Southern United States of the Atlantic coast.

Peter Bruce, in his Memoirs, (1732), says of the climate: “The Bahama Islands enjoy the most serene and the most temperate air in all America, the heat of the sun being greatly allayed by refreshing breezes from the east, and the earth and air are cooled by constant dews which fall in the night, and by gentle showers which fall in their proper seasons, so that they are free from the sultry heat of our other settlements. They are as little affected with frost, snow, hail, or the north-west winds, which prove so fatal both to man and plants in our colonies. It is, therefore, no wonder the sick and afflicted of these climates fly hither for relief, being sure to find a cure here.” In no country will the traveler find a better society, or more kind people, than among the European and native inhabitants of Nassau. The late Horace Greeley, writing from here, under date May 29, 1870, says: “I cannot bid adieu to Nassau without attesting the spontaneous, hearty kindness evinced by her people universally for the small but increasing colony of Americans, whereof the nucleus is the Royal Victoria Hotel. These are nearly all invalids, with their attendant relations, drawn hither by pulmonary disease, and the harshness of our winter winds, and naturally expecting little sympathy or hospitality save from each other; yet we are treated from highest to lowest, and from first to last, with a generosity and kindness which hardly allow us to remember that it is a foreign country.”

To sum up the advantages offered by Nassau: We find a place where the invalid, (after a short sea voyage), may enjoy the finest and most equable climate in the world, during the winter months, absolutely free from all danger of epidemic disease, hurricanes, earthquakes and other dangers and disadvantages usually incident to tropical countries, good society, fine educational and religious privileges, the use of a choice library, medical talent of the highest order, recreations of varied and healthful character.

The letters which are annexed will be found of interest, as containing, not only valuable information, but the impressions and observations of those whose indorsements should be of value.

The Royal Victoria Hotel opens annually the first of November, and closes about the first of June. Neither pains or expense will be spared to give entire satisfaction to those who either from necessity or fancy may choose to spend a winter in the tropics. The table will be provided with the very best imported and native supplies, and the attendance will be prompt and willing.

Terms at the hotel three dollars per day, American gold. Visitors will find letters of credit, certificates of deposit, U. S. gold notes or coin the more convenient form of funds. Letters of credit or drafts on Nassau can be procured of the agents of the steamship line at par.

Diagrams of the hotel showing the location of rooms, &c., may be seen by application to JAMES LIDGERWOOD & Co., agents for the hotel in the United States, 758 Broadway, N. Y., who will also furnish any further information in reference to the hotel that may be desired.

All packages for guests at the hotel, directed "care of James Lidgerwood & Co.," Agents R. V. H., 758 Broadway, will be promptly forwarded; but care should be taken that such packages are sent so as to be received at the Agency at least twenty-four hours before sailing day.

A schedule is issued monthly, giving the exact date of sailing of steamers, both from New York and Savannah; also, the rates of passage from different points, including excursion tickets. This may be had on application to MURRAY, FERRIS & Co., 62 South Street, New York, the agents of the New York, Nassau & Savannah Steamship Line, or any of the advertised agents.

By special permission, reference is made to the following named gentlemen:—

DR. ALONSO CLARK,	New York.
DR. JOHN T. ME CALFE,	"
DR. WILLIAM A. HAMMOND,	"
DR. T. GAILARD THOMAS,	"
DR. JAMES R. WOOD,	"
DR. FORDYCE BARKER,	"
DR. JOHN J. CRANE,	"
DR. AUSTIN FLINT,	"
DR. JAMES P. WHITE,	Buffalo, N. Y.

APPENDIX.

FROM GENERAL JAMES WATSON WEBB.

NEW YORK, May 10, 1870.

MY DEAR MR. GREELEY:

I have, within a few days, returned from Nassau, N. P., Where I took a member of my family in February, by advice of our family physician, in consequence of a bronchial affection, which admonished us to avoid, for the present, a north winter, after having spent eight in the tropics. The result has been most satisfactory, exceeding, indeed, our most sanguine anticipations. And, therefore, I trouble you with this letter, to be published in September next, when so many invalids suffering from lung affections, will be anxiously enquiring where they may find refuge from the cold and damp of our winters. As Mrs. Greeley spent the winter in Nassau, at the Royal Victoria Hotel, you will have no difficulty in investigating the claims of Nassau to be without rival in this hemisphere, as a grand *Sanitarium* for all diseases of the throat and lungs.

South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida all put in their claims to be favorable resorts for invalids desirous of escaping from the severity of our winters; and, relatively their claims are good. But being situated on this great continent, and subject to all the changes and vicissitudes of climate experienced north of the tropics, their merits are only relative when considered in relation to more northern places. Everywhere in our country, we are liable, more or less, to frost in winter. This is emphatically the case in Florida; and what makes it far worse for the invalid, the climate is so mild during most of the winter, that when frost does come, it is discovered that few if any precautions have been taken to resist its deleterious influence. Even the Island of Cuba is occasionally visited by frosts; and I know from personal observations in February last, that the Northerners experienced in Cuba are quite as distressing to the invalid suffering from affections of the lungs, as are the frosts of Florida. To escape frost in the West Indies, and avoid the influence of Northerners, St. Thomas and St. Croix are the only *Sanitaria* that can be safely recommended; and those are not always free from yellow fever before late in December, or after the middle of March. This fact effectually excludes both of these Islands from becoming places of general resort for invalids suffering from pulmonary complaints, because they may not prudently remain at the North until December, and cannot return with safety until May. Besides, the distance of St. Thomas and St. Croix from New York, and the difficulties in reaching them, effectually ignore their claims to competition with Nassau.

Madeira is the great *Sanitarium* of Europe, and, until lately, was considered without a rival throughout the world. Recently, however, Nassau has not only been proved to be superior to all other localities as a *Sanitarium* in the New World, but superior

also to Madeira itself. Madeira is decidedly more healthy than Nassau, from the 1st of June to 1st of November, when the thermometer in the former Island stands at an average of 70°-60°; while in the latter it averages 85° of Fahrenheit. And Surgeon-General Bagot, of the British Army, very properly remarks, that no person seeking health should ever find himself in Nassau from the middle of June to the middle of October. The unhealthiness of the Island in summer is conceded, but from the 1st of November to the first of June, *there is not, in all probability, any spot on the face of the earth so desirable for persons suffering from pulmonary complaints.* And *Nassau is only four days' sail from New York*; the steamer landing passengers on their way to Havana.

Nassau is situated in Lat. 25° 05' North, and Longitude 77° 20' West. Madeira is in Latitude 31° North.

The climate of the two places, as indicated by a long series of thermometrical observations, is as follows:

Madeira,	Winter, 63° 50'	Spring, 64° 45'
Nassau,	do 70 67	do 77 67
New York,	do 30 12	do 52 06

Now, you and I know that when in winter the temperature of our houses gets down to 65°, we increase our fires; and consequently we know, too, that to constitute a climate the mean or average of which is 63°, the thermometer must, most of the time be below 60°, consequently, fires become a necessity; and the out-door atmosphere is not one which an invalid afflicted with disease of the lungs may safely breathe. The remedy in all lung diseases is exercise in the open air, constantly inhaling an atmosphere of 70° or upwards; and the mean of the winter temperature in Nassau being 70°-67°, and of the spring 77°-67°, both dry with perfectly cloudless skies, there appears to be no doubt that, from November to May, New Providence is without a rival as a great *Sanitarium*.

Frost has never visited Nassau—the coldest day known during the past twenty-one years of careful registration (with one exception not verified), being 64°; and the warmest, from November to May, 82°—a variation of only eighteen degrees between the coldest and the warmest day during the period that invalids would naturally visit the Island for health. And the greatest difference in the thermometer ever recorded between October and June is only twenty degrees.

It follows, then, that there is on earth no such other place, as regards climate between October and June, as Nassau. The rainfall during the Winter and Spring is as follows, viz:

November,	2.8	February,	2.4
December,	2.4	March,	4.5
January,	2.4	April,	2.4

The mean height of the barometer for a series of years is ascertained to be exactly 30 inches, and the average humidity of the climate is 73.3.

During the months of March and April, we had only five falls of rain, usually of only two or three hours' duration, or less; and once raining about six hours continuously. During those two months we had rain previous to 10 p. m. but once; and both day and night the heavens were cloudless.

Such are the facts of the case in regard to the climate of Nassau; and extraordinary as they are, when compared with other places on the globe noted for their salubrity, there are great natural causes, visible and apparent to all, why it should be found free from frost, although in Lat. 25° 05' North; and at the same time, boast all the benefits

of the Tropics with a warm summer climate equable as man can desire. Those causes consist in the very peculiar and remarkable position of the Island. Look at the map, and you will at once perceive that on the *South* it is bounded by the South Atlantic, and the *warm* waters which constitute that mighty arm of the ocean—the Gulf Stream. On the *West*, that great wonder of the ocean separates it from the continent of America, and again protects Nassau on the North, and modifies all the cold winds of the continent into gentle zephyrs by the time they reach New Providence; and on the East we are open to the broad Atlantic, which, in Lat. 25°, never emits any amount of cold which the invalid may not safely inhale.

The sanitary virtues of the climate of Nassau are not of recent discovery; and, one hundred and forty years ago, Peter Bruce, in his memoirs, said:

“The Bahama Islands enjoy the most serene and the most temperate air in all America—the heat of the sun being greatly allayed by refreshing breezes from the East, and the earth and air are cooled by constant dews which fall in the night, and by gentle showers which fall in their proper seasons; so that they are free from the sultry heats of our other settlements. They are not affected by the frost, snow, hail, or northwest winds, which prove so fatal both to men and plants in our other colonies. It is therefore no wonder the sick and afflicted inhabitants of those climates fly hither for relief, being sure to find a cure here.”

What was true in 1732 is equally true now; and it is to benefit suffering humanity that I write this letter over my signature, as a guarantee that the invalid who may visit Nassau for affections of the lungs and throat, not too neglected, may feel a well-grounded assurance of being benefitted at this great *Sanitarium*.

I have already said that the trip to Nassau is performed in four days from New York by the line of steamers which runs weekly to Havana.* Of course there is no difficulty in being supplied, at all times, with every delicacy which invalids may desire; and I feel justified in saying that Messrs. CLEVELAND & NEWELL, the proprietors of the Royal Victoria Hotel, intend to keep a first-class house, and are, in every respect, well qualified to do so.

The Hotel was built by, and is the property of, the Government of the Bahamas; and is not only the largest and most commodious Hotel ever built in the Tropics, but is a building which has few rivals in our own country out of our large cities. And the Government of Nassau has given the proprietors a twenty years' lease of the hotel, conditioned only that they shall keep a first-class American hotel. They are both intelligent Americans, who held commissions in our army during the Rebellion; and writing from two months' residence in their hotel, I have no hesitation in saying that invalids and their friends are certain to fare as well at the Royal Victoria as anywhere out of New York.

Nassau is the seat of the Government of the Bahama Islands, and here reside the Governor and his staff, the Chief-Justice, Attorney-General, merchants, etc., etc., etc. Four companies of the 21 West India Regiment (blacks, with white officers) garrison the town; and altogether the officials, civil and military, and some dozen or two intellectual and cultivated families, constitute the best society I have ever known in a population of ten thousand souls.

Yours, etc.,

J. WATSON WEBB.

* Under the present Schedule, this is now changed.

[FROM THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE, JAN. 17, 1870.]

NASSAU, N. P., Jan. 9.

Leaving New York on the last of December, in search of a sunnier clime and more indulgent skies, our fifth day at sea brought us to what seemed in truth a new heaven and a new earth. Anchoring for a few minutes just in sight of our Promised Land, the good ship *Eagle* left us to pursue our way in the prettiest yacht imaginable. Sailing leisurely up the winding, shallow channel, still bright with many a submerged sun, it appeared as if we were gliding along in a pleasant dream that was never going to end. On either side the land was luxuriant with verdure; the wild cactus, the palm, and the cocoa marking its tropical character. To immense square heaps of coal on this solitary shore attracted my attention, and enquiry proved them to have been sold to the Confederates during the war, but, for some reason, not removed.

But to return to our yacht. Arrived at the wharf, it was boarded by the chief officer of the Custom-house—a colored man, eminently respected and respectable, with the manners of a Chesterfield, and an accent that Lord Dundreary might have owned. He was educated in England, I am told, and has since traveled nearly everywhere. The colored people here seem to have a very good chance, in many respects. There is next to no prejudice against them. The policemen are all colored men, so are the soldiers. The climate suits them: they can earn good livings, if they choose to work: and, if they do not, why, they can live on sugar-cane and be as idle as crown princes. Candor compels me to state that they generally choose the latter alternative: consequently there is very little done in the way of agriculture. Some of the blacks do a moderate trade in sponges, which they gather by detaching with a long hooked pole from the coral bed of the sea. They also dive for conch pearls, which are said to be very pretty, but are not obtained in sufficient quantities for commerce. I am told that they have a rosy, opalescent lustre. The most exquisite shell-work I ever saw is done here. Some of it was sent to the Great Exposition, and honorably mentioned in its report. Flower-crosses, baskets, vases, butterflies, broaches, bracelets, all kinds of ornaments, are made of shells, and are extremely beautiful.

One of the most charming features of Nassau is its beach, which extends for miles, and is covered with all sorts of treasures in the shape of pretty shells, star-fish, sea-eggs, (a creature that looks like an animated chestnut-burr, and has an unmistakable way of saying "touch me not," by darting some of its sharp prickles into one's flesh), sea-fans, branching coral, and little sponges washed ashore by the tide. The sea appears here in its gentlest, most caressing mood. No foaming billows, no sighing of the salt sea waves, no moaning nor groaning—in fact, none of the usual melancholy aspects of old ocean. Verdant little peninsulas, running out here and there, give a pleasant variety to the coast. The harbor, with its little fishing smacks, its weather-worn sail ships, its light-house and ruined fort, is picturesque enough for Venice.

Speaking of forts, there is a most curious one on an eminence commanding the island. It is built very much in the form of a side-wheel steamer, which is singular enough, inasmuch as it is nearly a hundred years old. A local tradition places it on the spot from which the British took the Island, of which occurrence the following version is given: A handful of English freebooters landed in the night, planted a couple of cannon on this peak in such a manner as to command the house of the Spanish Governor, and, when that *hidalgo* awoke next morning, it was to surrender at discretion to the adventurers who had so adroitly placed him at their mercy.

Some of the plants here are very curious. A variety of *sempervivum*, very common on the Island, will, if taken from its native soil and suspended in the air without a

particle of earth, live for years, new plants growing out of the crenated edges of the original leaves. The effect is very curious, and can be obtained with even a single leaf pinned to the wall of your room.

The climate is marvelously fine. The thermometer, I am told, will scarcely vary four degrees in as many months. The air balmy, without being enervating. There is positive enjoyment in breathing it. It has frequently wrought most incredible cures in lung difficulties. There are not a few people living here now, in apparently perfect health, who came here dying with consumption. I will give a few of many instances of benefit derived from this climate:

A physician from Philadelphia came here about ten years ago, having lost the use of one lung completely, and being expected to live but a short time. He did not gain very much the first year; but the second made him a well man, as I saw him to-day.

Another instance: A young man with one lung destroyed was brought here in an almost dying condition. In a few weeks he was riding on horseback, and by summer time was well enough to return to business. That occurred only last year.

Several consumptives, who came this Fall, are gaining rapidly, and expect to keep up the reputation of the place by returning in good health next June. I presume many more will come in time to avoid our severe Northern Spring.

The hotel here is the finest structure on the Island. It was built by the Government not very long since. It is now exceedingly well kept, and would compare not disadvantageously with the best New York hotels. The opportunities for boating, sporting and driving are excellent. The roads, formed of the native rocky bed of the Island, are as good as concrete. Altogether, these are charming winter quarters, where instead of hail and snow, and stormy blast,

" Blossoms and fruits and flowers together rise,
And the whole year in gay confusion lies."

IDA L. GREELEY.

FROM THE ALBANY EVENING JOURNAL, FEB 17, 1870.

MESSRS. EDITORS:

It is said that

" To avoid the ills we have,
We fly to those we know not of."

and this is no poetic fiction, yet I fancy we do not realize how often the converse is also true.

Our climate, for instance, taken as a whole, is not perhaps less healthful than any other, and yet how often we do see the victims to its rigidity in our streets, and mourn over them in our dwellings!

With the conviction that part, if not greater, is in certain cases better than the whole; that with us, an east wind is not an ailment, or in January the north an elixir; that the animal functions rebelled alike against their exclusion and transformation. I sought, a few weeks ago, in the interest of others, to turn the seasons about, and to receive the breath of summer in this winter of our complaining.

To do this, we left New York in as fine and comfortable a steamer as we have on the Hudson, and in four days we were at Nassau, New Providence, one of the Bahamas, in Latitude 25, where frost never comes, and where the bloom is perpetual.

We luxuriated in a soft balmy atmosphere of seventy-four degrees, and could but feel that there was health in every breath.

The changes of temperature are extremely slight—that between midnight and mid-day, in the shade, not ordinarily over five degrees, and between the summer and the winter mean not more than ten or fifteen degrees. The formation is coral, and the air dry.

All the ordinary tropical fruits abound in great perfection, and are had for little

more than the gathering. The senses are rapt by the novelty of the surroundings, the suddenness and entirety of the change. In a less distance from New York than Chicago, the transformation is perfect; not a shrub or tree is seen which surrounds both those places; not any other dress than a light and summer toilet.

The effect of a residence here upon invalids is not less surprising than the scenery so suddenly presented to the senses.

I was told, as I have often been told before, of some of the most remarkable cures in consumption cases, and I saw much to confirm the report.

Indigenous chest difficulties are almost unknown. They have intermittent fevers, and die there as we do here, but have their own diagnosis.

In our recent troubles, the inhabitants here said much as those of old Tyros, "Aha! she is broken that was the gate of the people; I shall be replenished now she is laid waste;" and the results, commercially, are about the same in type and anti-type.

Nassau is the seat of the Bahama Government. Here the Governor resides, and here are the Parliament Houses. This is the principal station for Government troops, and this the judicial as well as ecclesiastical head of the whole group.

At Nassau, too, is not only the best hotel building in all the West India Islands, but one of the best kept houses to be found anywhere, nor are the charges by any means exorbitant. Three dollars a day (gold) secures all the care, attendance, comfort, and luxury that four and a-half currency does in New York—more, I think; for here are less extras.

It was here, as I think, under the best hygienic influences, I left the friend in whose behalf I made the trip; and here should I be glad to know that many of the more numerous class to which I have alluded, as seen in our "streets and mourned over in our dwellings," were to have these advantages. It is simply to call their attention to these facts that I ask you to publish them.

I am, etc.,

V. Q.

THE BAHAMAS.

GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF THE ISLES—THE WINTER RESORT OF TOURISTS—VALUABLE
INFORMATION FOR THE TRAVELLER.

From the Detroit Free Press.

NASSAU, N. P., Aug. 15, 1875.

In giving you a descriptive letter of the Bahamas, with a few historical sketches, I have drawn from works contained in our public library in order to lay before your readers facts that can be relied upon. Much has been written upon this subject within the past few years, and in no one instance has the reader ever been presented with a correct representation. The Bahamas are a range of islands and cays—in America spelled keys—lying between twenty-seven degrees and fifty minutes north latitude and seventy-two degrees and six minutes west longitude, a distance of about six hundred miles. The most important of the group are Andros Island, Abaco, Crooked Island, Eleuthera, Exuma, Harbor Island, Inagua, Long Island, New Providence, Ragged Island, Rum Cay, San Salvador, Watling's Island and Turk Island. There are in all about thirty islands and some three hundred cays, varying in length from one-fourth of a mile to fifteen miles.

They were first settled by the British in 1673. From this time until the year 1718 they were considered of but little importance on account of their being a rendezvous for pirates, who were constantly committing depredations upon the inhabitants.

The formation of these islands is coral and limestone of snowy whiteness, soft

enough when taken from the quarries to be formed into any desirable shape with an ordinary cross-cut saw, chisel and hatchet. It is most excellent for building purposes, and becomes very hard by exposure. The stone also furnishes us with all the lime we use. We can boast of the finest roads in the world, being of solid stone, pure white, and seldom needing any repairs. The stone—or soil as we term it—being very porous the water readily filters through it, and consequently we never know what mud is in our streets. It may rain here for hours, and in half an hour after it has ceased it would be hard to discern that it had been raining at all.

THE SOIL

Is capable of producing all of our Northern vegetables, and we have them nearly all seasons of the year. It is not an uncommon thing to raise three crops of corn a year. I have seen fine radishes on the table three weeks after the seed was put in the ground. Potatoes, tomatoes, and cucumbers are grown in great abundance. Our watermelons and muskmelons are far superior to any I have seen at the North.

THE CLIMATE.

For the invalid the climate of the Bahamas is doubtless far preferable to that of any other country. The temperature during the winter months, say from the 1st of October to the 1st of May, averages about eighty degrees. The mercury seldom rises above eighty-five degrees, and as seldom falls below seventy-five degrees. We have the cool bracing winds of the north and east coming to us directly from the ocean. Frost is never known here, and but very little rain falls here from October to June.

As a resort for invalids, and especially those suffering from pulmonary complaints, Nassau, the city from which I am now writing, has become justly celebrated. It is no less a great resort for those who desire to rid themselves of a cold winter at the North.

NASSAU.

The City of Nassau is the capital of the Bahama Islands, situated on the Island of New Providence, in latitude 25 degrees 5 minutes, longitude 77 degrees 21 minutes west of Greenwich. It contains about 14,000 inhabitants, about two-thirds of whom are blacks. The city is built upon the northern side of the island and skirted by a ridge of hills which extend almost the whole length of the island and range from eighty to one hundred and twenty feet high. The houses are substantially built of the native stone, and nearly all furnished with verandas. It is almost as much a city of churches as Brooklyn, and nearly every denomination is here represented. We have a large and well selected public library, with a spacious reading room attached, where may be found most of the standard English and American periodicals and papers. The Government House is situated upon one of the highest points of land, and in front of which stands a colossal statue of Columbus.

THE ROYAL VICTORIA HOTEL

Is the finest and most sightly of all our public buildings. It was erected in 1862 by the Bahama government at a cost of \$125,000, and when you take into consideration the cheapness of labor and material—carpenters, masons and painters, at from seventy-five cents to one dollar per day—the same building would cost about four times that sum in the States. The building is substantially built of the native stone, has four floors and three piazzas ten feet wide, the two upper ones affording a promenade extending *one thousand feet*, affording invalids unable to bear much fatigue sufficient outdoor exercise without leaving the house. It is situated at the head of Parliament street, at an elevation of about ninety feet, and from its piazzas you have a fine view of the ocean, the harbor, the city and the adjacent islands. Directly in front, at a distance of about twenty rods, is the Public Library, and about the same distance further on is the Post

Office, Custom House, Public Bank, Court House, Council Chamber and Assembly Room.

In the rear is the new prison, built in 1865 at a cost of \$80,000. It is built of the same material as the hotel, and is a very sightly structure. You also have a fine view of the suburbs, including the town, or, rather, settlements, of Grantstown and Baintown, the residence of a large portion of the colored population.

The hotel can accommodate about *three hundred guests*, and is probably the *best and cleanest kept hotel in the West Indies*.

THE DRIVES.

Our drives are not to be surpassed in any country. The principal one extends a distance of about sixteen miles, and follows the sea beach the entire distance. There are but two hills in the whole distance and neither of them over fifty feet elevation. The only other one of any importance crosses the island through the pine barrens in an angular direction, a distance of about fourteen miles. This road takes you through the suburbs and through a number of small villages and negro settlements, and terminates at Southwest Bay, where large vessels go for safety in heavy weather when unable to cross the bar at the entrance of our harbor. The roads are always in excellent condition and as smooth as the asphalt pavement. In riding along the first mentioned road you pass a large number of country seats, generally upon elevated situations, used by the natives and residents for marooning and by visitors for pic-nics.

BOATING.

Our harbor is formed by a range of cayes and small islands extending the entire length of the north side of the island, a distance of about twenty miles in length, and from one-half to one and a half miles in width. The harbor of the city proper is formed by Hog Island, on which is situated the light-house at its western extremity. The island is about four miles in length and will average rather less than one-fourth of a mile in width and about thirty to forty feet high. This furnishes us a beautiful harbor for boating, which is very much resorted to by our Northern visitors as a healthful recreation. We have quite a number of very fine yachts of the smaller class, as well as sails and row-boats, which can be hired by the season, day or hour.



HARBOR ISLAND.

SEA BATHING.

There is no country where the facilities for sea bathing are better than here. We have a very large number of private bath houses which are always at the disposal of strangers (free of charge) who prefer a closed to an open sea bath. Those who prefer the latter can enjoy themselves to their heart's content on the north beach of Hog Island. There the surf bathing is considered, by those who have tried both, to be far superior to Long Branch or Cape May. The beach is of a crescent shape, and about one and a half miles long, walled in by a coral reef about half a mile distant to the north, over which the breakers roll in beautiful succession, diminishing gradually as they reach the shore.

FISH.

To give you a full description of our fish and their peculiarities would, perhaps, occupy too much space in your valuable journal. I will therefore simply give you the names of many of them and a description of a few. Their names are mutton fish, margate fish, hound fish, parrot fish, catfish, cowfish, squirrel, hog-fish, slippery Dick, dolphin, kingfish, Hamlet, Miss Nix, jewfish, pilchard, grunt, runner, neuse shark and all other species of shark, blackfish, bluefish, yellow-tail snapper, striped snapper, gray snapper, alewife, porkfish, Spanish and Bahama angel fish, Spanish mackerel, turbot, schoolmaster, soldier, jack, goggleeye, cockeye pilot, hind, flying fish, mullet, hedgehog or bladder fish, plate fish, sucking fish, rainbow fish, eel, barracouta, amber fish, grouper, shad, moray, whiplay and stingray, bonito, goat fish, rumpeter, sinnet, rock fish, porgy, sailors' choice, sand fish, bone fish, porpoise and balahoo.

There are a number of other kinds which I don't at present call to mind, but think I have given you enough to satisfy you that we have no lack of brain food—even if this letter should appear as evidence to the contrary.

Our fish are highly prized by strangers, and many of them considered superior to those they get at home. A slight sketch of a few of them may not be uninteresting to your readers. The mutton and hog fish are very delicate, fine grained fish, and considered the best for boiling. They weigh from five to twenty pounds. The grouper is very similar to our fresh cod, and is generally used for baking, stewing and for chowders. The cow fish is shaped precisely like a beech nut, has a very thin brown shell. When stuffed and baked the flesh has very much the taste and appearance of the white meat of a chicken. The dolphin, king fish, Spanish mackerel, bonita, barracouta and rock fish are the larger species, weighing from fifty to one hundred pounds. The jewfish supplies the place of our Northern halibut. It is cut into steaks and fried in a similar manner. It is the largest edible fish we have, often weighing six hundred pounds. At certain seasons this fish lies dormant at the bottom, and refuses to take the hook. Under these circumstances the fishermen dive down and place the hook in his mouth. This may appear to you to be a very heavy fish story, but it is nevertheless true, as can be vouched for by many here. At Long Caye a man had his hand taken off while performing this feat.

The hound fish is shaped very much like an eel, for which it is a very good substitute. It is semi-transparent, with bones resembling light blue glass thread. Its snout or bill is often eight or ten inches long, slim and sharp, with a row of teeth running the entire length on either side. The angel fish, turbot and rainbow fish are most beautifully colored, having all the tints of the rainbow. The maray and stingray are a species of the eel. The whiplay has a body shaped like a flounder, with a tail often ten feet long, tapering from about one inch in diameter at the butt to one-eighth of an inch at the small end. When dried it resembles whalebone and makes a very nice coach whip. Our bonefish are very similar in flavor and appearance to the Northern shad. We also have the crawfish (lobster) and crab. Turtle are caught here in abundance, and one of

the greatest delicacies of which we can justly boast is our turtle soup, which is made here to perfection. The steak is also excellent. Our turtle weigh from about five pounds to six hundred, and prices range from four to six cents per pound. Fish are equally as cheap. We also have the conch, a very nutritious shellfish, containing large quantities of iodine, and is a good substitute for oysters.

FRUITS AND FLOWERS.

Our principal fruits are the orange, pine-apple, bannana, plantain, mango, appodilla, guava, mammee, lime, lemon, shaddock, tamarind, custard apple, sugar apple, pomegranate, grape fruit, soursop and star apple. The pineapple, orange, lime, lemon, grape fruit, shaddock, banana and plantain are the principal fruits we export. Our chief markets are London, New York and Baltimore. Our pineapple season is about over for shipping. There has been about three hundred thousand dozens sent from these islands the past season, it is the general impression at the North that pineapples grow on trees. It is a low plant with bayonet-shaped leaves, seldom over eighteen inches high, with a single pineapple shooting up through its center on a slender stalk. They are a delicious fruit when cut ripe from the field. Those which we send you have to be shipped partially green in order to get them to market.

Our oranges are shipped from here by the cargo in bulk instead of boxes as you get them from the Mediterranean. By strangers they are thought far superior to the Smyrna orange.

The shaddock and grape fruit are of the orange species, only very much larger, and coarser grained. The shaddock will often measure from twenty-four to thirty inches in circumference, and the grape fruit from fifteen to eighteen.

The mango is one of the most delicately flavored fruits we have. It resembles a peach in color, a pear in shape, and a strawberry in flavor.

The soursop is a very good substitute for cotton soaked in vinegar. The juice when expressed from the fibrous pulp makes a very refreshing water-ice. I won't tire your readers with any further description of our fruits. We have coconuts in abundance. All kinds of fruit are very cheap, and as the different kinds have different seasons we have it the year round.

FLOWERS.

Our flowers are nearly all perennial. We have them in great profusion the year round. Among those that are most attractive to the eye of the stranger are the oleander, red, white, pink, scarlet and variegated. They grow to the height of thirty feet and are always in blossom. The night-blooming cereus is one of our most beautiful flowers. It is an offshoot from a scraggy looking cactus. The flower opens about sundown and continues open through the night. The outside leaves are of a pale green, the inner leaves of a pure wax-like white and the petals light yellow. They are from eight to twelve inches long and from fifteen to twenty inches in circumference. The shell flower, *hibiscus reginarianum*, or crape myrtle, tuberose, jasmine of various kinds, geraniums, are among our favorite flowers. The rose of almost every specie is grown here to perfection. Our woods are covered with beautiful flowering vines and ferns. The life leaf and air plant or wild pine are among our botanical curiosities. A leaf of the former pinned to the wall will grow for months. The wild pine attaches itself to the forest trees and is often found holding a quart of water in its bowl. It receives its sustenance entirely from the air, and prefers being tied to a post to being planted in the ground. We have also nearly every species of the cactus.

WOODS.

The dye and cabinet woods exported from these islands are brazilliette, fustie logwood, mahogany, Spanish cedar, ebony, green and black, satin or sandal wood, Maderia, horseflesh and lignum-vitæ. The horseflesh is a species of coarse-grained mahogany and is

used principally for house and ship-building purposes, and is very superior to oak. The better qualities are used for cabinet purposes, is very durable, handsomely grained, and is susceptible of a very high polish.

The other woods are too well known to your readers to require a description. We also have a great variety of smaller wood, employed in the manufacture of canes.



SILK COTTON TREE, NASSAU, N. P.

SHELLS AND CORAL.

Our beaches furnish us with a great variety of beautifully colored and highly polished marine shells. They are a considerable article of export, and find a ready market in England and France. The shell work made here by the natives is not surpassed, if equaled, in any part of the world. They are formed into baskets, bridal wreaths, sprays, crosses, neck-laces, ear-rings, pins and bracelets. Our shell work has taken the first premium at the last three great expositions. The specimen sent to Vienna was purchased and presented to H. R. H. Prince Albert. One of our artists is now at work on a piece—an epergne—to be sent to the Centennial. It will be the most elaborate piece of shell work ever made in the colony.

We have nearly all species of coral. The brain, cone, honeycomb, branch and elk-horn being the most abundant. Some specimens of the branch or tree coral are very beautiful, bearing the perfect resemblance to a tree.

SPONGE AND SALT.

Sponge and salt are two of our principal articles of export. In quality the sponge will not compare with the Mediterranean. The principal kinds shipped from these

islands are sheep wool, velvet reef and glove. The sheep wool is a very soft, tough sponge, and excellent for bathing purposes. The reef and velvet sponge is used for surgical purposes. There is also a kind called grass sponge, which in the past three years has been extensively used in the manufacture of carpets; an average of about 400,000 pound is annually exported from here.

The Bahamas contain seven salt producing islands, viz.: Turk's Island, Inagua, Fortune Island, Ragged Island, Long Island, Ruin Caye and Exuma. The salt is produced entirely by solar evaporation. Square pans of from one-fourth to one acre in size are made by building a water-tight wall around them about a foot high. The salt water is then let in from the Salina—a natural salt lake—to the depth of about six inches, where it is left for the sun to perform the balance of the work by evaporation. In about six weeks, with favorable weather, the fresh water is drawn off by the heat, and the solid mass of crystalized salt left in the bottom of the pan. It is then broken up, carted out and heaped up on the deposit ready for shipping. It is not unusual to see at Inagua—in a good season—a pile of salt containing over one hundred thousand bushels. From two to three million bushels are made in the Bahamas in a good season. A few hours heavy raid when the salt is making will destroy the whole crop, and all the work has to be done over again.

SHOOTING.

Nearly all our large islands are supplied with inland lakes, varying in length from half a mile to twenty miles, and in width from one-eighth of a mile to eight miles. The two largest are at Inagua and Andros Island. The water is brackish, the lake having a subterranean connection with the ocean, and rises and falls with the tide. In the season these lakes are literally covered with wild ducks of different species. The canvas back, black duck, teal, coot, and whistling duck. There are also immense numbers of flamingoes to be found on many of our lakes where they breed. The lakes are very shallow, often not more than eighteen inches to two feet deep, with a solid, level stone bottom. I will venture to say that I have seen five thousand flamingoes in one flock. They will average about five feet high. Their plumage is of a bright red color when full grown. When young they are gray. They build their nests of sticks about two feet from the ground, lay their eggs, which are about nine inches in circumference by five inches in length, straddle over the eggs and hatch their young. We also have wild pigeons in great abundance. They remain with us throughout the year and breed on many of our islands and small cayes. The partridge, quail, snipe, plover, wood dove, rice birds, and occasionally a wild goose, are found here. Our sportsmen invariably shoot on the wing, and few countries can boast of better marksmen than we have here.

FISHING.

We have most excellent fishing, both harbor and deep sea fishing. The first thing that attracts the attention of the stranger is the transparency of the water: grains of sand, shells, fish, coral and submarine plants can be seen at the bottom at the depth of ten or twelve fathoms. With the aid of a waterglass—a long, narrow wooden box with a glass in one end—you can see bottom in thirty to forty fathoms of water. Fish are caught here in great abundance, both with the hook and net. The larger portion of our fish are sold in our market alive from snacks, having fish wells in them. They are transferred from the boats to tubs on the market wharf, where you can make your selection, strike your bargain and send home your fish alive.

Our harbor is occasionally visited by sharks of ten or twelve feet long. One was killed about ten years ago that had a lard keg in his mouth which he could neither swallow or eject. He had the appearance of having kept up Lent for a long period.

EPES SARGENT.



THE GLASS WINDOWS--HARBOR ISLAND.

Pleasure seekers will find Nassau a charming resort to pass the winter in—the facilities for fishing and yachting being excellent, the neighboring keys and islands abounding in charming resorts and picturesque scenery.

The cruise to Harbor Island is one easily made, and a visit to the "Glass Windows," a limestone arch eighty-five feet above the sea, an illustration of which appears above, will amply repay one for the trouble of the trip.

THE BAHAMAS.

TO THOSE INTENDING TO VISIT US—HOW TO GO AND WHAT TO CARRY.

Special Correspondence of The Detroit Free Press.

NASSAU, Sept. 15, 1875.

A WORD TO THOSE INTENDING TO VISIT US.

Having told you where we live, how we live, and what we live upon, let me say a word to any of your invalid—or healthy readers. For all diseases of the lungs, throat, liver, kidneys or spine, there is no climate on the face of the earth superior, and I doubt if any equal, to the climate of Nassau. While in Florida the mercury often shows a change of twenty to thirty degrees in the temperature in twenty-four and often twelve hours, we never see a change over five degrees in the same time, and often for weeks there is not a variation of five degrees, our island being completely surrounded by the

ocean, and of not a very high elevation—like Cuba, Jamaica and St. Domingo or St. Thomas—we have the full benefit of the cool, invigorating sea-breeze, directly from the Atlantic. Some most wonderful cures of pulmonary diseases, asthma, rheumatism, neuralgia and bronchitis have been performed almost entirely by the climate. Let me impress upon you not to delay coming until your disease is so firmly seated that neither climate or your physician can render you any aid. In the first stage of the disease your recovery is almost certain. In the second stage your chances are more than even, but if you delay until you are a fit subject for an undertaker you had better not try the experiment, but stay at home. If you make up your mind to try our climate don't put it off too late in the season. You should be here as early as on the first of November, and make up your minds not to leave before the middle of May, or still better, the first of June. Your ordinary fall clothing will be as thick as you will require in our coolest weather. The price of board at the Royal Victoria Hotel is *three dollars per day*, the smaller hotel charges *one dollar and fifty cents*, boarding-houses from *ten to fourteen dollars per week*, and some even less. Carriage and boat hire is very reasonable. The white population is very hospitable and kind to strangers—the negroes very civil. Our physicians are considered at the head of the profession and their charges are very moderate. We have Churches of every denomination (of the Christian sect) and our pulpits are supplied with men of more than ordinary intellect. Our custom house officials are very gentlemanly and never disturb your baggage, and in fact the *whole community* exert themselves to make the sojourn of the stranger pleasant.

HOW TO COME AND WHAT TO BRING.

The Bahamas Government has just concluded a contract with Messrs. Murray, Ferris & Co., 62 South street, New York, for the conveyance of mails and passengers to and from Nassau. Messrs. T. Darling & Co. are the agents here. The steamers and accommodations are first-class. They make the trip inside of five days from New York, and land you at the wharf. The old lines dropped you into a boat outside the bar. They are to make semi-monthly trips until the first of January, 1876, when they make *one trip every ten days from Savannah*. It is well to secure your state-room for a trip at least in advance as you may be crowded out if you put it off until you arrive in New York. It is not a good plan to bring either greenbacks or gold. American gold brings its full value, but there is more or less risk in carrying it about with you. The best plan is to get a letter of credit from a New York banker on their agents here: if you lose it you can get a duplicate. If you start with gold and lose, it is "done gone," as our darkies say. Greenbacks are always at a discount; also American silver. Messrs. Murray, Ferris & Co. will sell you sight drafts, or issue letters of credit on their agents if you prefer it. Don't be discouraged if you find that you haven't improved much in the first two or three weeks after your arrival. It often takes a little time to get accustomed to the change of climate, diet, etc., and recover from the effects of your sea voyage. I have known invalids brought on shore on a stretcher, and seen them walking about the streets in a week afterward. Others would apparently grow worse for the first week or two and then take a favorable turn and improve rapidly. To those who come, simply to rid themselves of a cold Northern winter, I would say they will find plenty to amuse themselves with.

EPES SARGENT.

A GREAT ATTRACTION TO TOURISTS

AND PLEASURE TRAVELLERS IS THE ROUTE OF THE

Quebec and Gulf Port Steamship Co.,

Whose commodious steamers proceed from Quebec down the majestic River and Gulf of St. Lawrence, in sight of the grandest scenery and many historical points, calling at numerous noted sea-bathing resorts on the south shore of the Gulf, giving the sportsman and angler a chance to visit the most famed rivers, bays and inlets, which swarm with trout and salmon.

The steamers connect at Point du Chene (Shediac) with Intercolonial Railroad for St. John, N. B., thence by cars and steamers to Portland and Boston; and at Pictou with Intercolonial Railroad for Halifax, N. S., connecting there with railway or steamer lines for St. John, Portland and Boston. This is the route to Charlottetown and Prince Edward Island.

Excursion Tickets

From New York, Boston, or other points in New England, to Montreal, Quebec, thence *via* Gulf Port Steamers to Shediac, N. B., Charlottetown, P. E. I., Pictou, N. S., St. John, N. B., Halifax, N. S., passing through all points of interest in the marine provinces, and returning by either rail or steamer, to Portland, Boston and New York, or *vice versa*.

For sale in New York, Boston, and principal points in New England,

AT ALL OFFICES SELLING EXCURSION TICKETS,

Ask Ticket Agent for Gulf Port Steamer Circular, which will give you all particular information, and map of route.

GUSTAVE LEVE,

Passenger Agent, Boston.

W. MOORE,

Manager

General Office, Quebec.

Boston, Concord, Montreal

AND

WHITE MOUNTAINS R. R.

Now open to the Fabyan House, White Mountains, and to Northumberland
on the Grand Trunk Railway.

The Shortest, Quickest and Best Route

TO THE

**WHITE AND FRANCONIA MOUNTAINS,
MONTREAL AND QUEBEC.**

This is the only line running Day Palace Cars and Express Train between Boston, Providence, Worcester, New London, Stonington, and the White and Franconia Mountains. This line passing as it does up the valley of the Merrimac and Connecticut Rivers, through the Cities of Lowell, Lawrence, Nashua, Manchester, and Concord, and along the borders of Lake Winnepesaukee for 30 miles, terminating at the foot of Mt. Washington, passing River, Lake and Mountain Scenery unequalled in New England, and in the immediate vicinity of the principal Hotels and Summer Boarding Houses in the Northern part of the State, makes it the popular travellers route for Tourists visiting the

Lake and Mountain Scenery of New Hampshire.

For further information regarding time, connections, tickets, &c. see the principal R. R. Guides, or apply to

No. 5 State St., or 240 Washington St., Boston,

And the principal Offices on the Line.

J. A. DODGE, Sup't, Plymouth, N. H.

THE GREAT SUMMER EXCURSION ROUTE

IS THE

Montreal and Boston Air Line,

COMPRISING THE

Boston, Concord & Montreal R. R., Concord to Wells River,

Passumpsic R. R., Wells River to Newport, Vt.

South-Eastern Railway, Newport to St. Johns. P. Q.

RUNNING TWO FAST EXPRESS TRAINS,

Composed of NEW AND ELEGANT CARS, provided with all
modern improvements,

From BOSTON (LOWELL DEPOT,) to MONTREAL,

WHERE CONNECTION IS MADE WITH GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY
FOR THE WEST.

Entire Trains, with Pullman Sleeping and Parlor Cars attached, run from Boston to Montreal without change, and only one change to Chicago. No route from Boston presents such magnificent scenery, and Passengers by this Line travel through the **PARADISE OF THIS CONTINENT.**

A continuous and most charming Panorama of River, Mountain, Valley and Lake Scenery will entertain the traveler the distance of 250 miles, including the grand views of

Lake Winnepesaukee,

The White Mountain Range,

Passumpsic River Valley,

Crystal Lake,

AND THE

Romantic Lake Memphremagog.

Trains stop 30 minutes for meals at the Pemigewasset House, Plymouth, N. H., and the Memphremagog House, Newport, Vt.

GENERAL OFFICE,

General Office, **240 WASHINGTON ST.,** (Old Number 294.)

GUSTAVE LEVE, General Agent, Boston.

H. E. FOLSOM, Sup't,
N. P. LOVERING, Jr., Gen. Ticket Agent, } Lyndenville, Vt.

THE

St. Lawrence & Saguenay Line of Steamers.

PLYING BETWEEN

QUEBEC, THE RIVER SAGUENAY, AND THE WATERING
PLACES OF THE LOWER ST. LAWRENCE,

Is composed of the First-class Sea-going Passenger Steamers,

SAGUENAY,

ST. LAWRENCE,

and UNION.

From and after the 20th of June to the 10th of September, one of the above boats will leave the St. Andrew's Wharf daily (Sundays and Mondays excepted), at 7 A. M., on the arrival of the Montreal boat.

 ACCOMMODATIONS FIRST-CLASS, 

CHARGES MODERATE.

Tickets for sale at the principal ticket-offices in the States and Canada, and at the office of the Company,

Opp. St. Louis Hotel, or St. Andrews Wharf,

QUEBEC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, APPLY TO

GUSTAVE LEVE,

A. GABONRY,

General Agent, Boston.

Secretary.

ST. LOUIS HOTEL,

ST. LOUIS STREET,

QUEBEC.

WILLIS RUSSELL, - - - - - Proprietor.

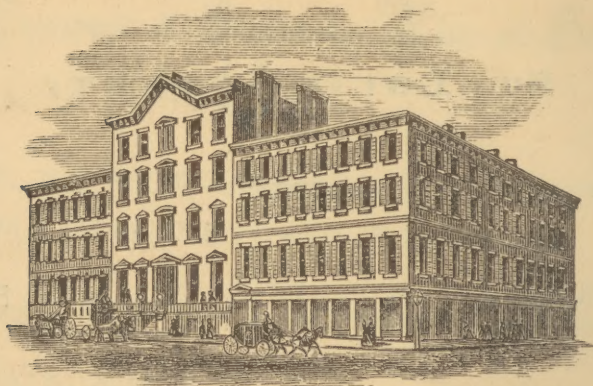


This Hotel, which is unrivalled for size, style and locality, in Quebec, is open through the year for pleasure and business travel.

It is eligibly situated near to, and surrounded by the most delightful and fashionable promenades—the Governor's Garden, the Citadel, the Esplanade, the Place d'Armes, and Durham Terrace—which furnish the splendid views and magnificent scenery for which Quebec is so justly celebrated, and which is unsurpassed in any part of the world.

The proprietor, in returning thanks for the very liberal patronage hitherto enjoyed, informs the public that this Hotel has been enlarged and refitted, and can now accommodate five hundred visitors ; and assures them that nothing will be wanting on his part that will conduce to the comfort and enjoyment of his guests.

SCREVEN HOUSE,



SAVANNAH, Ga.

R. BRADLEY, Proprietor.

This long and favorably known House is the

Leading First-class Hotel in Savannah,

(As demonstrated by its receiving a majority of the first-class travel arriving in the city) is pleasantly and centrally located on Johnson Square, and has recently been

THOROUGHLY REPAIRED, RENOVATED AND REPAINTED.

and is not surpassed as a STRICTLY first-class Hotel by ANY House in the Middle or Southern States.

Its organization in all of its departments being complete, and filled with capable and polite superintendents and servants.

The table is supplied at all times with the best, and greatest variety that the Home and Northern Markets afford.

There is attached to the House a first-class Billiard-room, Bar-room, Barber-shop and Livery Stable.

To those who have patronized the Screven House, the Proprietor thinks it only necessary to assure them that *it is and will be* kept fully up to its past standard, and to solicit those who have not done so, to give it a trial.

Special attention given to letters and telegrams to secure rooms, sleeping berths and tickets for guests.

SAVANNAH, November 5, 1875.

For SAVANNAH, Ga., FLORIDA,

AND ALL POINTS IN THE SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST.

MURRAY LINE.

Sailing every Tuesday from **PIER 16**, East River, at 3 P. M., the
Elegant Passenger Steamships,

LEO—JAMES DANIELS, Commander.

CLEOPATRA—E. M. BULKLEY, Commander.

The Steamships on this favorite line of travel to the South are newly and handsomely fitted up for the accommodation of Passengers and it is the intention of the owners to have them conducive in all respects to the comfort and safety of the traveling public.

Through trains of the Central Railroad of Georgia, and Atlantic and Gulf Railroad, Fla., leave Savannah every morning and evening.

The steamers of this line make close connections at Savannah with the mail and passenger steamers for Nassau, N. P., Bahamas, forming with the Nassau Steamers during the winter season the

New York, Nassau and Savannah

MAIL STEAMSHIP LINE.

On comparison, the following **RATES OF PASSAGE** will be found to be to many places **FORTY OR FIFTY PER CENT. LESS** than **ALL RAIL ROUTES**, the time being **NEARLY AS SHORT**, with the addition of a table furnished with all the luxuries of the season.

TO SAVANNAH, - - - \$20.

Augusta, Ga.	\$22 00	Selma, Ala.	\$35 00	Jacksonville, Fla.	27 75
Atlanta, Ga.	27 50	Chattanooga, Tenn.	30 00	Lake City, Fla.	30 25
Albany, Ga.	31 50	New Orleans, La.	47 00	Madison, Fla.	30 25
Brunswick, Ga.	25 75	Baldwin, Fla.	27 75	Monticello, Fla.	31 25
Columbus, Ga.	31 00	Cedar Keys, Fla.	32 75	Orange Mills, Fla.	30 25
Macon, Ga.	27 00	Enterprise, Fla.	35 75	Palatka, Fla.	29 75
Milledgeville, Ga.	27 00	Fernandina, Fla.	27 75	Pensacola, Fla.	40 55
Rome, Ga.	30 25	Green Cove Spr'gs, Fla.	28 75	Picolata, Fla.	29 75
Eufaula, Ala.	32 00	Gainesville, Fla.	30 25	Quincy, Fla.	32 50
Montgomery, Ala.	35 00	Hibernia, Fla.	28 75	St. Augustine, Fla.	31 75
Mobile, Ala.	40 00			Tallahassee, Fla.	31 25

EXCURSION TICKETS TO JACKSONVILLE, \$50.

Including First-class State-room, and all Charges on the Steamships between New York and Savannah, viz:

For **ST. JOHN'S RIVER** and **ST. AUGUSTINE**, passengers have choice of Three Routes from Savannah.

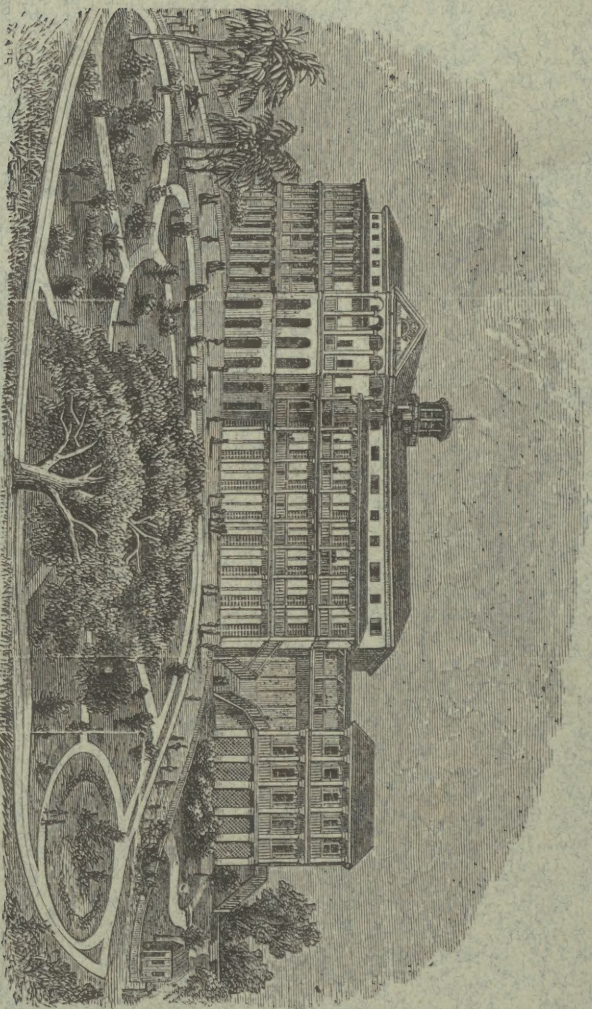
For further information apply to

HUNTER & GAMMELL, Agents,

Savannah, Ga.

MURRAY, FERRIS & CO., Agents,

62 South Street, New York.



ROYAL VICTORIA HOTEL,
NASSAU, (N. P.) BAHAMAS.